

Dear Member, I would like to weigh in on the Assembly's discussion of mandatory comprehensive sex education for high school graduation in HB5489.

1. Providers of contraceptives, abortion services and pregnancy counseling should not be involved in writing the curriculum to be used or be involved in providing any related educational service through, to or at a school. Particularly Planned Parenthood who derive and sustain their income by sexually active youth. NO NO NO and shame on any educator or legislator who lets them have any part in educating our youth - there is a conflict of interest.
2. We used to receive a thorough sex education in BIOLOGY class decades ago. At least back then we knew conception never happened between two men or two women, but only a man and a woman. We clearly knew a child's life began at conception. Now - although we can practically watch cells dividing in real time, that seems to have become murky ! So much for advancing education. What is wrong with the decision makers in these matters?
3. IF this is high school education then it should not begin prior to 9th grade, i.e. high school's first year.
4. Sex education should NEVER be presented in a coed setting. Rather than fostering an atmosphere of safety to ask questions, such a situation is instead intimidating, insensitive, and ignorant.
5. Adults in charge of sex ed have got to be able to communicate that having many partners is an unhealthy, detrimental path for many reasons (increased risk of stds, emotionally debasing, selfish or worse , and the list goes on.) . It isn't the way to healthy happy society.
- 6 .Parents should always have the option to opt their student out and work with the curriculum at home with their child. Parents are the most sensitive about their children. Parents are usually waiting for their child to show signs that they are ready to be spoken to about sexual information. They look for appropriateness in talking with them, from their initial discovery of their own bodies onward. Very likely, children have had some sex education at home before reaching high school, as they have likely already reached puberty. Could we please get the State out of every area of our lives?
7. Unfortunately "Comprehensive" has come to be understood as code for inclusion of every possible deviant behavior. Finally, can we please be honest - there is nothing wrong with DISCERNMENT. Stop equating everything . That is true DUMBING DOWN. Sorry, but discernment (not discrimination) is something we all do because we know some things are 'better', 'healthier', 'safer', than others.

The fact that this "Act concerning secondary school reform" is to be a mandatory 'comprehensive' program already let's me know that 'common sense' isn't common.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Claire Smith, Sharon, CT.